

THE LANCASTER NEWS

LEDGER 1852

REVIEW 1878

ENTERPRISE 1891

VOL. 2. NO. 47. SEMI-WEEKLY.

LANCASTER, S. C., MARCH 23, 1907

PRICE—FIVE CENTS PER COPY.

Big Sensation in Charlotte.

Assistant Cashier of Charlotte National Bank Disappears with Sixty-eight Thousand Dollars of the Bank's Funds—President B. D. Heath Issues Statement Showing Bank's Condition to be all Right—Big Reward Offered for Absconding Officer.

From The Observer of Thursday.

The Charlotte National Bank yesterday morning made official announcement of the fact that Assistant Cashier Franc H. Jones had disappeared and that his accounts were short in the sum of \$68,000. Coupled with the announcement of the defalcation was the statement by President B. D. Heath of the bank's condition, a most creditable showing. To President Heath's statement was added the personal guarantee of the directors that all depositors would be paid in full. This statement by President Heath and the depositors' guarantee of the directors are reproduced in toto. They follow:

"Charlotte, March 20th, 1907.

"A shortage of \$68,000 in the cash of the bank was discovered Monday, the 18th inst. The assistant cashier, Franc H. Jones, is missing. He is bonded in two strong surety companies for an aggregate of \$20,000.

"The total loss to the bank will be approximately \$48,000, which will come out of the undivided profits and surplus fund of the bank, leaving not only its capital of \$125,000 untouched, but in addition a surplus fund of \$50,000.

"The business will be continued without interruption.

"B. D. Heath,
President."

"March 20, 1907.

"To the depositors of the Charlotte National Bank, Charlotte, N. C.:

"We, the undersigned, do hereby personally guarantee that the existing deposits of this bank will be paid in full.

"B. D. Heath,
"Vinton Liddell,
"C. Valaer,
"C. F. Wadsworth,
"R. H. Jordan,
"Jno M. Scott."

Nothing has happened in Charlotte in recent years which created such a stir. Mr. Jones stood high in public favor and held the esteem and regard of his employers. He had been a resident for years, and was considered as one of Charlotte's leading young business men. He had been connected with the Charlotte National Bank for four years, holding first the responsible position of teller.

The missing man skipped with his accounts \$68,000 short. What became of the money no one knows for sure. He could only have gotten it during the past

eight or nine months. Very likely he secured the major portion of it during the past four or five weeks. Last summer an exhaustive examination of all accounts was made by experts. There was nothing irregular then so far as could be learned. It is possible that the stealing commenced shortly after the experts left.

There is little doubt but that Mr. Jones lost a large sum speculating. Doubtless at first he took a few hundred dollars of the bank's money hoping to retrieve personal losses and with the profit thus derived pay back what he had borrowed. He lost this and tried again. He went in heavy, loading up on stocks which offered brilliant prospects of wealth. The market broke and with it went all the margins which he had posted. It is said that not a small sum passed through the hands of brokers in Fort Mill and Rock Hill, S. C. The bulk of it probably was carried away Saturday night.

The defalcation was discovered early Monday morning. When the doors of the bank were opened, Mr. Jones, who was acting cashier in the absence of Mr. W. H. Twitty, did not show up. Thinking nothing out of the way, someone called up his home to discover the trouble. In response to the query, the reply received was that Mr. Jones had been called unexpectedly to Richmond, Va., by a telegram from Mr. John M. Miller, Jr., cashier of the First National Bank, of that city. It so happened that one of the officials of the bank present knew that Mr. Miller was in Charlotte. He was requested to step down to the bank. When he came, he was asked about the message which he had sent Mr. Jones.

"What message?" asked Mr. Miller. "I haven't wired anything to Mr. Jones. And as for summoning him to Richmond, I never thought of such a step.

"You had better get busy on his books, if such is the case" continued Mr. Miller. "If he has told you that story, it indicates something wrong."

From that moment on, there were stirring times in the offices of the Charlotte National Bank. A quiet investigation was immediately instituted. The books were hauled out and the accounts gone over. The cash was counted and the deposits checked up. Every item was carefully tabulated.

It required but a little time to disclose the fact that the missing man was a defaulter and that he had stolen a large part of the bank's cash. As the examination of the accounts proceeded, the situation grew worse and worse, from thousands, the deficit swelled to tens of thousands. The reckoning at the close of the day showed that the missing man had made away with \$68,000. The deficit may be even larger.

Mr. Jones left without notifying any of the directors. Satur-

day afternoon he gave his keys to Mr. Carey W. Butt, bookkeeper, telling him that he was going to Richmond, Va., on urgent business and that he might not get back in time for the opening Monday morning. With this he went home, packed up his grip and went down to the Seaboard depot. He caught the 7:15 o'clock train for Hamlet.

\$1,000 REWARD OFFERED

It is needless to add that neither the bank nor the bonding companies will spare any effort to apprehend him. The board of directors met yesterday and voted to offer a reward of \$1,000 for his arrest. The two bonding companies, the American Bonding Company, of Baltimore Md., and the American Surety Company, of New York, who had bonded him for \$20,000, will spend any amount in order to procure his arrest. The detective agencies have already been notified and from this time on Franc Jones is a marked man.

Mr. Jones is a native of Louisville. He is a son of the late Mr. E. C. Jones, who was a resident of Charlotte years ago. He came to the city some 20 years ago to accept a position with E. M. Andrews & Co. After a residence of six years he moved to Newbern to go into the furniture business there. He did not stay there long for he returned to Charlotte the next year. He accepted a position in the Merchants & Farmers National bank as bookkeeper. A little more than four years ago, he was tendered the position as teller in the Charlotte National Bank which he accepted. This office he held until last January when he was made assistant cashier. Mr. Jones married Miss Rosa B. Smith of Wilmington.

Mr. Jones is about 40 years of age, although he looks five years younger. He is small of stature, about 5 feet, 7 inches tall, with black hair and black eyes. He wears glasses and walks with a slight stoop. He weighs about 130 pounds. His face is unusually thin and his eyes deep set and nose prominent. His demeanor is quiet and his habits regular.

Brother Kills Man Who Eloped With Sister and is Shot Down by Brother-in-Law.

Ashland, Ky., Mar. 20.—Two murders and an avenger made an outlaw were reported to day, as the result of one man's act at Hellier, Ky. In an old village in Southern Virginia, Frank Dutton and Alcene Rose met and loved, an elopement following. Sam Rose, brother of the girl followed them to Hellier, where in pistol duel he killed Dutton and almost immediately after wards was himself shot by Elias Dutton, brother of Frank, dying beside his sister's doorstep. Dutton took to the mountains and a posse is in pursuit.

Do you take The News?

Two Boys Capture a Man Charged with Stealing Clothing.

Chester Reporter: A young white man, giving his name as Charlie Brown, is in the county jail charged with stealing a suit of clothes from Mr. W. A. Hardin. The young fellow came to Mr. Hardin Friday afternoon and applied for work. Mr. Hardin stated that he had no position available, but would give the young fellow a few odd jobs to do until he could find a regular position Saturday morning while Mr. Hardin was in the city. Brown took advantage of his absence to purloin the clothing. The loss was soon discovered by Mrs. Hardin and information phoned to Mr. Hardin, who sent his little son and a little darkey in one direction to intercept the thief, while he set out in another. The two little fellows met Brown near the Wylie Mill and brought him on to the city, where they turned him over to Sheriff Peden. The captors had their hands full of rocks, and were evidently prepared to carry out Mr. Hardin's orders to bring Brown in dead or alive if they came across him.

Ycung Man Shoots his Wife and then Kills Himself.

Lynchburg, Va., Mar. 21.—Otis Thompson shot his wife twice and then killed himself about 6 o'clock Monday. They were married December 1st, but had quarreled and separated two weeks ago. It is thought that Thompson went to the house where his wife was boarding to urge her to live with him again and that she refused. He then shot her twice in the face, inflicting two critical wounds. She rushed out of the room and into another part of the house. He followed, and when in the hall turned the pistol to his forehead fired, and fell dead. The coroner deemed an inquest unnecessary.

Final Census Report on Cotton for the Year.

Washington, Mar. 20.—The final census report on cotton for the year issued today shows that 13,290,677 bales of cotton, counting round bales as half bales, including linters, have been ginned. The number of active ginneries this year is 28,702.

The 1906 crop is compared with 10,725,602 for 1905; and 13,697,310 for 1904. The average gross weight of the bale for 1906 is 510.7 pounds, and the crop, expressed in 500 pound bales, is 13,576,226. The items entering the totals for the crop of 1906 are 13,099,927 square bales; 266,795 round bales; 57,352 Sea Island bales; and 321,160 linters. The quantity of cotton estimated by ginneries and delinters as remaining to be ginned and included in the report of 1906 is 155,704 bales.

Capt. J. C. Rollings Dead.

The Gallant Confederate Officer and Upright Citizen Passed Away Tuesday Night.

The many friends of Capt. James C. Rollings will regret to learn of his death, which occurred last Tuesday night at his home in Kershaw county. He was a son of the late Evan Rollings of Oakhurst and was about 70 years old. He moved from Lancaster county to Camden many years ago, where for a long time he was successfully engaged in the mercantile business. He was elected mayor of Camden for several terms, and for several years he held the office of treasurer of Kershaw county. He was ever faithful to the trusts reposed in him.

Capt. Rollings was a brave and gallant Confederate soldier. He was captain of company I, of the 12th South Carolina regiment. He was desperately wounded in the second battle of Manassas, being shot in the mouth. He was greatly beloved by his comrades, and they especially will be pained to hear of his death.

Capt. Rollings was never married, but he is survived by the following brothers and sisters: Mrs. Z. L. Robinson, Messrs Ransom, Lewis and Lonnie Rollings, Mrs. John Stover, Mrs. Hillard Duncan, Miss Sallie Rollings and Dr. John W. Rollings—all of this county, except Dr. Rollings, who is a resident of Kentucky.

Southern Power Co. Preparing to Develop Plant on Broad River.

Yorkville Enquirer: Having completed its work at Great Catawba Falls, the Southern Power company is now moving its entire working force and construction plant from Catawba Falls to Ninety Nine islands. The site of the proposed Broad River dam is about four miles below the site of the Cherokee Falls Manufacturing company. The construction folks are rapidly building quite a little town at the site of the dam, and the probability is that the statement will soon number between four and five hundred souls. Having gotten dam building down to a very fine point, it is not thought that the Southern Power company will be a great while in finishing the present work.

Lad Bitten by Mad Dog.

Marion special in Thursday's State: Little Joe Stackhouse, the five-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hugh Stackhouse of the Campbell's Bridge section of this county, was bitten by a mad dog Saturday, and was taken the following day to Baltimore for treatment at the Pastuer institute.